

Limerick Leader



SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1970

UNFAIR TO LIMERICK

ALDERMAN STEVE COUGHLAN, T.D., Mayor of Limerick, gave what may well be termed an unwelcome airing to a discreditable skeleton in Limerick's cupboard when he made reference to the anti-Jewish pogrom that occurred in Limerick 66 years ago. This reference was made at a national conference of Credit Unions that was representative of the country—north and south. His words were badly chosen and indeed there are many who will agree that it would have been far better for Limerick and for this country as a whole had they remained unspoken. We believe that our Mayor was completely out of place in raising the matter. He was wrong to raise it and while he did make it clear that he was speaking as Steve Coughlan and not as Mayor of our city, the fact remains Limerick is being wrongly attacked by those who wish to discredit our fine city and its inhabitants.

MR. GERARD GOLDBERG, one of Ireland's most distinguished Jews, has made a strong reply to the Mayor's unnecessary remarks and while we hasten to add that he has every right to rush in to vindicate his people, we feel he may have been a bit too harsh and we suggest that he may have been a little unfair to the people of Limerick. Mr. Goldberg is wise enough to appreciate that it is wrong to pass judgment on the people of Limerick because of the remarks of one man who openly stated that he was speaking as an individual. We agree that our Jewish citizens have done much for our community and for our country and they have every right to our respect and admiration. What happened in Limerick 66 years ago is a chapter in our history which would be better forgotten and we trust that this will be appreciated by the great majority of our readers wherever they may be.

WE SHOULD NOT overlook the fact that people of the 1970's are not qualified to unearth stories of incidents that happened 66 years ago. The hard facts have become clouded and in some cases exaggerated. The fact remains—the incidents can no longer be discussed objectively. Too much has been forgotten and too much has been twisted. The Limerick Leader is not anti-anything as some might wish to suggest and we have no wish to take such a line just for the sake of being anti. However, we will continue to stand up against anybody being anti-Semitic or anti-anything for that matter which infringes the right of the individual in our community and within our nation.

Lime

By BEHNARD CAREF

RECENTLY, under the chairmanship of Ald. Patrick Kennedy, a group of teenage students from various colleges and schools in the Limerick area met to discuss ways and means of organising leisure time.

Social

A very successful social was held in Cruise's Hotel, attended by 300 teenage boys and girls. It was strictly supervised and proved highly successful.

Badly-needed funds were raised for the purpose of organising further activities, and from there a very firm foundation has been established.

It is a very good augury for the future, and shows that our teenage boys and girls, in the main, have a mature and sensible approach to life.

It is an association which should be encouraged in every way and welcomed by parents who can be assured that their sons and daughters are attending functions properly organised and supervised.

Ald. Kennedy stated: "Our main objective is to organise recreational and cultural activities for our large school-going teenage population, a sector who work longer hours than any other section of our community."

Supervised

"As educational institutions and curricula are progressively altered and adjusted, it is clear that we must provide opportunities for our students to relax by arranging healthy and well-supervised activities for them."

"We have for example decided to hold four or five student dances annually, on an invitation basis only, to coincide with holiday periods and mid-term breaks."

"Teenage years are now recognised as a period of great importance in the development of the individual, and in this context it seems desirable that school should be life, and not only a preparation for life."

"We hope, that in future that our students will not have to reflect with Wordsworth when he wrote 'Little we see in Nature that is ours'."

"The students are also anxious that the association would in time carry out small but desirable social and civic projects."

Ambassadors

"No doubt, there will be initial growing pains, but if the association is carefully and persistently built, these young people could become effective ambassadors for the accomplishment of great good in Limerick."

Contract